

**From:** Domenech, Douglas  
**To:** Scott Hommel; Magallanes, Downey; Laura Rigas; Swift, Heather; James Cason; Micah Chambers; Daniel Jorjani; Mashburn, Lori; Bauserman, Christine; Caroline Boulton; Thiele, Aaron; Willens, Todd; Getto, Leila; David Bernhardt  
**Subject:** Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 8/24/17  
**Date:** Thursday, August 24, 2017 1:55:37 PM  
**Attachments:** [DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 08-24-17.docx](#)

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Attached and copied below.

### **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 8/24/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor  
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

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NOTE: On Friday, the National Park Service will celebrate its 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

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THIS WEEK:

Fri. 8/25: National Park Service Founders Day events in TN and NC. Breakfast with Sen. Alexander and Stakeholders; Smokey Mountains National Park Tour and Staff; Remarks and Cake Cutting; Volunteers and Youth Corps on Rainbow Falls Trail Help Build Trail; Visit Memorial Trees at Pi Beta Phi Elementary School; Waterrock Knob Visitors Center; Greet Staff and Sen. Tillis; Mt. Pisgah; Remarks and Cut Cake; Hiking Trailhead Newfound Gap, Bryson City, NC Newfound Gap to Clingman's Dome. 9.1 miles.

Sat. 8/26: With Senator Alexander.

#### **Status of the Deputy Secretary**

TODAY: The Deputy Secretary is in Washington, DC. Various meetings and briefings. Bernhardt will host a meeting of CEOs on the subject of critical minerals.

#### **Media TODAY**

#### **Secretary Zinke Sends Monument Report to the White House**

(WASHINGTON) Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke sent a report to the president which included his findings and recommendations on national monuments that were under review as a

result of the April 26, 2017 executive order. The report summary can be read here. The extensive 120-day review included more than 60 meetings with hundreds of advocates and opponents of monument designations, tours of monuments conducted over air, foot, car, and horseback (including a virtual tour of a marine monument), and a thorough review of more than 2.4 million public comments submitted to the Department on [regulations.gov](#). Additionally, countless more meetings and conversations between senior Interior officials and local, state, Tribal, and non-government stakeholders including multiple Tribal listening sessions.

The review was implemented by President Trump in order to restore trust in the multiple-use mission of the Department and to give rural communities a voice in federal land management decisions. In order to make the process transparent and give local residents and stakeholders a voice, the Secretary announced on May 5, 2017 the opening up of a formal comment period for the review, as the President directed. This was the first time ever that a formal comment period was open on [regulations.gov](#) for national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.

### **White House Report** (Sent Wednesday)

#### **Press Inquiries:**

- Many inquiries regarding the National Monument review.
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**Political Appointee Update** (no change)

DOI politicals on board = 54

5 nominated awaiting confirmation:

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(Springfield, MO)

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9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

Open - Detroit Economic Club

Open - Jefferson's Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

Open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

**Declining**

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9/5 - National Association of State Park Directors and Annual Meeting (Missoula, Montana)

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9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Assn - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)

9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)

9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)

9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)

**Emergency Management** (new)

The Interior Operations Center (IOC) continues to monitor Tropical Storm Harvey, located approximately 425 miles south-southeast of Port O'Connor, Texas. The storm, as of 5:00 a.m., EDT, carries maximum sustained winds near 45 miles per hour, with potential to reach hurricane status by Friday. Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Storm Surge, and other associated watches and warnings have been issued along the entirety of the Texas coastline.

In advance of landfall, the IOC is continuing coordination with potentially affected DOI bureaus and offices regarding preparatory actions, emergency action plans, and anticipated impacts to DOI personnel, lands, and facilities. Additionally, the Office of Emergency Management is coordinating with FEMA regarding potential DOI support to the federal response effort.

In Washington, the Bridge Creek Fire on the Colville Reservation (BIA) has burned 2,640 (+200) acres and is 33 (+4)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 515 (+37) personnel assigned, including 61 (no change) DOI personnel. Full containment is expected on September 20.

**Outside Media of Interest** (new)

**Trump To Hear Recommendations For National Monuments.**

The Hill (8/23, Cama) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke faces a Thursday deadline “to issue recommendations to the White House for any changes he thinks President Trump should make” to 21 national monument designations. The announcement will “close a chapter on the administration’s highly contentious review that has fueled significant opposition among conservationists and support by Republicans and industries like oil and agriculture that use federal land.” The article notes that “Zinke invited comments from the public on the review, the first time such a formal process has been taken for national monuments,” and “he also traveled to many of the monuments and met with opponents and supporters.”

**Interior, Agriculture Secretaries To Visit Montana Wildfire.**

The AP (8/23) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue “plan to visit a Montana wildfire command post Thursday as dozens of blazes rage across the western U.S.” Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift “said Wednesday that the two members of President Donald Trump’s cabinet will receive a briefing from firefighters battling a 50-square-mile blaze burning northwest of Missoula.” According to Swift, “the visit was requested by the two Republicans on Montana’s congressional delegation, Sen. Steve Daines and Rep. Greg Gianforte.”

### **Interior Dept. Agencies Could Move West, High-Level Official Says In Denver.**

The Denver Business Journal (8/23, Proctor) reports that senior officials at the Interior Department “are ‘actively looking’ at moving ‘some’ of its agencies out of Washington, D.C., to the western states, a senior Interior official said at a Denver oil and gas forum.”

### **Commentary: Interior’s New Sage Grouse Protection Efforts Welcomed.**

In his column for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (8/23, Mitchell), Thomas Mitchell welcomes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s order to implement “recommendations from a team that reviewed the previous administration’s draconian land use restrictions under the guise of protecting greater sage grouse.” According to Mitchell, the move by the Interior Department “should have a salutary impact on Nevada’s economy.”

### **Critics: Utah Horse Meeting Is Secretive ‘Slaughter Summit’.**

The AP (8/23, Price, Sonner) reports that “swollen populations of federally-protected wild horses roaming 10 Western states are starved and damaging rangelands, Utah and U.S. government officials said at a conference Wednesday, an invitation-only meeting that mustang-protection advocates say is promoting the slaughter of an icon of the American West.” According to the article, “members of Utah’s congressional delegation and a U.S. Interior Department official speaking at the National Horse and Burro Summit in Salt Lake City all described an unsustainable population of wild horses that’s nearly three times the size that federal officials think the rangeland can support.” Meanwhile, “horse-protection groups who weren’t allowed into the Utah State University-hosted event protested outside the downtown hotel where it was held, calling it a ‘slaughter summit’ that’s kowtowing to livestock interests, promoting increased roundups and slaughter of wild horses from California to Colorado without public input.”

### **Parks Service Issues Permit For San Francisco Rally.**

The AP (8/23, Elias) reports that “federal authorities on Wednesday issued a permit to a politically conservative group for a Saturday afternoon rally in San Francisco that local officials fear could turn violent.” The National Park Service “had earlier told Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson that he had permission for the event, but withheld issuing the permit until the group agreed to several conditions, which include banning guns, tiki torches and other items that can be turned into weapons.” The NPS “said denying Patriot Prayer a permit would violate the organization’s free speech rights.”

### **Coming Soon To The National Mall: A Pro-Trump Protest, Juggalo Rally, Liberal March And Weddings – On The Same Day.**

The Washington Post (8/23, Stein) reports that the National Park Service is “preparing for one of its

busiest days of the year in the nation's capital next month – a fall day when more than 30 events are expected to coincide, including a pro-Trump rally and a demonstration of Insane Clown Posse fans who have dubbed themselves Juggalos." NPS spokesman Mike Litterst "said the agency is sifting through applications to determine where best to situate each group on Sept. 16." The U.S. Park Police "wouldn't discuss its security plan for the day, but said the agency is prepared to provide security while protecting First Amendment activities on federal property."

**Federal Register Listings:** (new)

Items cleared for the FR on Wednesday.

REG0007307 BLM Notice of Application for Extension of Public Land Order No. 7296 and Opportunity for Public Meeting, Sacramento Peak Observatory, New Mexico. The BLM provides notice of and requests comments on a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) application requesting that the Secretary of the Interior extend the duration of the withdrawal created by Public Land Order (PLO) No. 7296 for an additional 20-year term subject to valid existing rights. PLO No. 7296 withdrew over 2,400 acres of National Forest System land from mining to protect the scientific values of the Sacramento Peak Observatory in the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico. It will expire on November 28, 2017, if it is not extended. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007266 BOE Agency Information Collection Activities; Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that BOEM will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) under 30 CFR part 551. BOEM is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007279 BSEE Agency Information Collection Activities; Unitization This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that BSEE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to the paperwork requirements in BSEE's unitization regulations. BSEE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007327 FWS Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Permit Applications (first applicant: Gregory Gerke, Carmel, IN). This is a batched notice announcing the receipt of applications received by FWS for Endangered Species Act permits. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007325 NPS Notice of Public Meeting: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee is scheduled to meet on September 13, 2017. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007326 NPS Notice of Public Meeting: Gateway National Recreation Area Fort Hancock 21st Century Advisory Committee. The Gateway National Recreation Area Fort Hancock 21st Century Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on September 15, 2017. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007280 USGS Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Ferrous Metals Surveys. This Notice, under the

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Doug Domenech  
Senior Advisor  
US Department of the Interior

NOTE: *Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.*

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**Outside Media of Interest** (new)

**Trump To Hear Recommendations For National Monuments.**

The Hill (8/23, Cama) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke faces a Thursday deadline “to issue recommendations to the White House for any changes he thinks President Trump should make” to 21 national monument designations. The announcement will “close a chapter on the administration’s highly contentious review that has fueled significant opposition among conservationists and support by Republicans and industries like oil and agriculture that use federal land.” The article notes that “Zinke invited comments from the public on the review, the first time such a formal process has been taken for national monuments,” and “he also traveled to many of the monuments and met with opponents and supporters.”

**Interior, Agriculture Secretaries To Visit Montana Wildfire.**

The AP (8/23) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue “plan to visit a Montana wildfire command post Thursday as dozens of blazes rage across the western U.S.” Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift “said Wednesday that the two members of President Donald Trump’s cabinet will receive a briefing from firefighters battling a 50-square-mile blaze burning northwest of Missoula.” According to Swift, “the visit was requested by the two Republicans on Montana’s congressional delegation, Sen. Steve Daines and Rep. Greg Gianforte.”

**Interior Dept. Agencies Could Move West, High-Level Official Says In Denver.**

The Denver Business Journal (8/23, Proctor) reports that senior officials at the Interior Department “are ‘actively looking’ at moving ‘some’ of its agencies out of Washington, D.C., to the western states, a senior Interior official said at a Denver oil and gas forum.”

**Commentary: Interior’s New Sage Grouse Protection Efforts Welcomed.**

In his column for the Elko (NV) Daily Free Press (8/23, Mitchell), Thomas Mitchell welcomes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s order to implement “recommendations from a team that reviewed the previous administration’s draconian land use restrictions under the guise of protecting greater sage grouse.” According to Mitchell, the move by the Interior Department “should have a salutary impact on Nevada’s economy.”

**Critics: Utah Horse Meeting Is Secretive ‘Slaughter Summit’.**

The AP (8/23, Price, Sonner) reports that “swollen populations of federally-protected wild horses roaming 10 Western states are starved and damaging rangelands, Utah and U.S. government officials said at a conference Wednesday, an invitation-only meeting that mustang-protection advocates say is promoting the slaughter of an icon of the American West.” According to the article, “members of Utah’s congressional delegation and a U.S. Interior Department official speaking at the National Horse and Burro Summit in Salt Lake City all described an unsustainable population of wild horses that’s nearly three times the size that federal officials think the rangeland can support.” Meanwhile, “horse-

protection groups who weren't allowed into the Utah State University-hosted event protested outside the downtown hotel where it was held, calling it a 'slaughter summit' that's kowtowing to livestock interests, promoting increased roundups and slaughter of wild horses from California to Colorado without public input."

**Parks Service Issues Permit For San Francisco Rally.**

The AP (8/23, Elias) reports that "federal authorities on Wednesday issued a permit to a politically conservative group for a Saturday afternoon rally in San Francisco that local officials fear could turn violent." The National Park Service "had earlier told Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson that he had permission for the event, but withheld issuing the permit until the group agreed to several conditions, which include banning guns, tiki torches and other items that can be turned into weapons." The NPS "said denying Patriot Prayer a permit would violate the organization's free speech rights."

**Coming Soon To The National Mall: A Pro-Trump Protest, Juggalo Rally, Liberal March And Weddings – On The Same Day.**

The Washington Post (8/23, Stein) reports that the National Park Service is "preparing for one of its busiest days of the year in the nation's capital next month – a fall day when more than 30 events are expected to coincide, including a pro-Trump rally and a demonstration of Insane Clown Posse fans who have dubbed themselves Juggalos." NPS spokesman Mike Litterst "said the agency is sifting through applications to determine where best to situate each group on Sept. 16." The U.S. Park Police "wouldn't discuss its security plan for the day, but said the agency is prepared to provide security while protecting First Amendment activities on federal property."

**Federal Register Listings:** (new)

Items cleared for the FR on Wednesday.

REG0007307 BLM Notice of Application for Extension of Public Land Order No. 7296 and Opportunity for Public Meeting, Sacramento Peak Observatory, New Mexico. The BLM provides notice of and requests comments on a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) application requesting that the Secretary of the Interior extend the duration of the withdrawal created by Public Land Order (PLO) No. 7296 for an additional 20-year term subject to valid existing rights. PLO No. 7296 withdrew over 2,400 acres of National Forest System land from mining to protect the scientific values of the Sacramento Peak Observatory in the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico. It will expire on November 28, 2017, if it is not extended. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007266 BOE Agency Information Collection Activities; Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that BOEM will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) under 30 CFR part 551. BOEM is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007279 BSEE Agency Information Collection Activities; Unitization This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that BSEE will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to the paperwork requirements in BSEE's unitization regulations. BSEE is requesting public comments on the renewal for 60 days. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007327 FWS Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Permit Applications (first applicant: Gregory Gerke, Carmel, IN). This is a batched notice announcing the receipt of applications received by FWS for Endangered Species Act permits. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007325 NPS Notice of Public Meeting: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee is scheduled to meet on September 13, 2017. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007326 NPS Notice of Public Meeting: Gateway National Recreation Area Fort Hancock 21st Century Advisory Committee. The Gateway National Recreation Area Fort Hancock 21st Century Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on September 15, 2017. Notice 08/23/2017.

REG0007280 USGS Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Ferrous Metals Surveys. This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, announces that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to ferrous metals surveys. The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 8/23/2017.